SPORTS

Winchester squares off against Thanksgiving rival Woburn Thursday morning at Knowlton Stadium

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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Winchester junior wide receiver Ted Budreski (9) looks for addition yards after making a catch against Marshfield during a Division 2 Round of 8 game in Marshfield on Nov. 15. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

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Winner of the 122nd edition breaks tie in the all-time series between these two Middlesex League foes

The Winchester High football team (7-3) is getting ready to host its Thanksgiving Day rival Woburn (6-4) in the annual game on Thursday morning (Nov. 28) at Knowlton Stadium, beginning at 10:15 a.m.

But the Red & Black, the sixth seed in Division 2, first had to get over the Round 8 loss to host Marshfield (9-2, third seed). It was a high scoring affair, with the Winchester boys coming up short, 48-28.

The Rams however, then dropped a 34-15 decision to King Philip Regional (11-0, second seed) in a state semifinal game last Friday night (Nov. 22). King Philip will now square off against Catholic Memorial (10-1, top seed) in the D-2 Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium next week.

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Winchester senior defensive back Jack Johnson (8) drags down a Marshfield receiver during a Division 2 Round of 8 game in Marshfield on Nov. 15. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

Winchester coach Wally Dembowski accepted the loss to the Rams as a learning experience for his young squad.

“Marshfield is a very good team, but we just need to keep developing our program in order to reach their level,” the veteran Winchester coach said.

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The Red & Black scored a touchdown in all four quarters, but unfortunately the Rams accounted for two scores in the second, third and fourth quarters to negate any offense that Winchester was able to muster.

Junior running back Gianni DePrimeo scored a touchdown in the Marshfield game on a seven-yard run. Sophomore quarterback Peter Alexopoulos, stepping in for the injured Ronan O'Connell, hooked up with Ted Budreski for a 73-yard scoring strike. He also found Michael Ficociello for a 15-yard touchdown pass to keep things relatively close on the scoreboard for a while.

"Alexopoulos played very well on short notice, helping us stay within reach," said Dembowski. "It was a tough game. We had our chances, but did not succeed."

Winchester sophomore quarterback Peter Alexopoulos (16) takes off up field during a Division 2 Round of 8 game against host Marshfield on Nov. 15. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

Will Devine returned a blocked punt for a late touchdown to help the win for the home team. Alex Molander was Marshfield's defensive star

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of the game after coming up with 27 tackles.

But the Red & Black quickly had to put this playoff game behind them in order to put together a game plan for Woburn.

“The Thanksgiving Day game against Woburn is always a hard-fought, emotional battle,” said Dembowski.

Winchester senior defensive back Joe Guida (1) makes a diving tackle against Marshfield during a Division 2 Round of 8 game in Marshfield on Nov. 15. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

The longtime holiday rivalry couldn’t be much closer. The winner this year will break a virtual tie in the century-plus series that now stands at 55-55-12.

“(Woburn) had the upper hand last year after they came back to beat us (20-17) in the second half,” said Dembowski. “They are big, strong and physical, and we need to match their physicality. We also have to play sound fundamental defense, while continuing our consistent offensive attack, when we have the ball, to have a chance to come out on top.”

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The Tanners employ a power offensive with a reliance on the running game. They are also very aggressive on defense.

“It will be a test of wills, and the team that makes fewer mistakes and a couple of big plays will probably come away with the victory,” added Dembowski.

Turkey day starting lineups

Basing everything, of course, on health, the Winchester offensive and defensive starting lineups against Woburn on Thursday morning will probably look like this:

Winchester junior running back Gianni DePrimeo (2) gets up to speed for a big gain against Marshfield during a Division 2 Round of 8 game in Marshfield on Nov. 15. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

On offense: quarterback Ronan O’Connell, running back Gianni DePrimeo, tight end Michael Ficociello, wide receivers. Ted Budreski, Connor Pandolph and Oliver Fanton, and offensive linemen from right g

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guard Adam Rauseo, Brogan Salvietti, Jake Tempesta, Lucas Sekino and Shaun Garrett.

On defense: defensive backs Joe Guida, Jack Johnson, Gianni DePrimeo, Quinn Pimentel and Nicky Rotondi, linebackers Bryan Harrison, Ilyas Malik and Chris Russo, and defensive linemen Omar Alosta, Jake Tempesta and Brogan Salvietti.

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Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this

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Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the Meet at North Andover High. Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and

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Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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